

**City of Milpitas**  
**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Telecommunications Commission**  
**November 21, 2005**

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call:**

Telecommunications Commission Vice Chair Niranjana Gupta called the meeting to order.

Members Present

N. Gupta, G. Ali-Santosa, P. Peterson Alt 1, S.A.A.  
Bilgrami Alt 2 I. Munir, V.Mathur, D. Gupta

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent: A. Ettinger, S. K. Bansal, A. Alcorn, W. Lam

City Council: A. Gomez

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Announcements:**

No announcements were made for the record.

**IV. Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda.

M/S N. Gupta / G. Alisantosa Ayes: 7

**V. Approval of the Minutes  
October 17, 2005**

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

M/S V. Mathur / N. Gupta Ayes: 7

**VI. Citizen's Forum**

No comments made for the record.

**VII. Continued-New Business:**

**1. P.E.G. Access Subcommittee Report**

Bill Marion, Director of Information Services, updated the Commission on the PEG subcommittee activities on behalf of subcommittee chair Dinesh Gupta.

Commissioner D. Gupta, subcommittee chair, reported on a finalized draft version 2.1 that would be presented before the council subcommittee. A report will be updated to Councilmember Livengood and Gomez.

Staff and the subcommittee developed an outline detailing the funding of the public access studio. Comcast would distribute a total of \$340,000 for the first year to help fund and construct the public access studio. An additional \$50,000 a year will be distributed for five years starting in 2005 to support the public access

channel operations. Comcast has agreed to the fund amount and will distribute the funds to the city.

Mr. Marion reported they have been working with city finance staff to develop a CIP account to track purchases being charged for the cable access studio project. The progress of the cable studio project will involve telecom commission. Commissioner D. Gupta recommended that the commission review the equipment and progress reports before being sent for final approval to city council.

The subcommittee also recommended that the current cable channel 15 be combined to support City Hall and MUSD programming and meeting coverage. Public access will have separate channel location on the cable television line up. Currently, the recommended location for the public access studio is the adjoining storage room located next to the city hall public conference room on the first floor. The commission asked of the future senior center. Staff added that location could be a possibility, however, it still a few years out before any commitment to space can be made.

In the meantime, staff recommended that the Commission review the two policy documents so that it can be presented for final submittal.

The final approval on the use of the room would need to be given by the city council. Ultimately, the city council has the final and overall final word of the use of the cable channel.

Mr. Marion noted the project would be presented at the next city council meeting in January 2006. He also added that Comcast need to fulfill is franchise obligations that are currently outstanding.

Vice Chair N. Gupta suggested that the project be presented in February instead of January to give more time to staff. Staff noted it would be presenting the report to the council subcommittee.

Commissioner Peterson asked of the funding of the studio and the responsible party has to the funding source. Mr. Marion detailed the policy language of the cable studio operation and responsible parties. It is anticipated that minimal city staff time and volunteers would be staffing the operation of the public access studio. The partnership will be still intact however; the role of the funding falls on the responsibility of the city.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S G. Ali-Santosa / V. Mathur Ayes: 7

## 2. December meeting schedule consideration

Staff provided update on the Dec 19 meeting. No major projects are being presented in December and only the ongoing review of the PEG policy documents are being considered. Staff noted that it is the commission's decision to cancel and defer the December 19 meeting.

Motion to cancel the December 19 meeting. The PEG subcommittee will continue to meet and provide direction on the development of the policy and prepare for final documentation review.

M/S P. Peterson / G. Alisantosa Ayes: 7

### 3. October 2005 I.S. Monthly Report

Information Services Director, Bill Marion, reported on the accomplishments of the information services department.

Staff followed up with Comcast on a Milpitas resident concern on video on demand and in Milpitas. The Comcast digital programming varies from community to community. Milpitas Comcast digital subscribers receive a predetermine list of channels based on the existing technology installed in the Milpitas area over a decade ago. In comparison, other communities that recently had its cable systems revamped for new digital technology can support a greater numbers of channels. The commissioners requested that Comcast to be available to address these questions at the next meeting in January.

Mr. Marion distributed a news article from Western Cities article on the continued deregulation of cable franchise via the telecom and telephony industry offering alternative video services. Staff would be monitoring the activities on this matter and its implications on the local government cable franchises.

Staff reported that Sony video was interested in the city's use of one of its video products for security surveillance. Staff provided several photos of the video application and will be published in a future magazine article.

Finally, information services staff assisted with police and the city clerk's word processing department to implement the use of digital voice recorders use for easier dictation processing.

Motion to note receipt and file.

M/S D. Gupta / V. Mathur Ayes: 7

### 4. Round Table Discussion

Commissioner D. Gupta reported that the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce annual directory had published

the Telecom Commission group photograph as part of its city commissions listing.

Staff reported that in January 2006 commissioners, N. Gupta, D Gupta, A. Ettinger, I Munir, V Mathur and S Bilgrami will be up for renewal. The city clerk will be notifying the commissioners of their interest continuing to serve in 2006.

#### **VIII. Adjournment of Meeting**

The Commission adjourned to its next meeting of January 23, 2006.

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